

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 18, 2007

REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AT 7:00 P.M.

THE HONORABLE LAURENT F. GILBERT, SR., MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Councilors Mendros, Bernier, O'Brien, Jean, Samson, Paradis, Rousseau, City Administrator James Bennett, and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silence.

UPDATE FROM THE LEWISTON YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Luke Jenson stated their new Smashed video has been approved by the State to be shown as part of student driver education classes around the state. The video was recently screened by area health teachers who also felt it has an important message for youth. He noted that members of LYAC will be participating in the YADA discussion groups in January at the Library. He also shared that two members applied to serve on the State's Youth Council at the urging of Rep. Makas, yet neither were selected for this year. There were only two entries for their holiday house decorating contest. The group needs to raise an additional \$4,000 to complete it's electronic message board at the high school.

At this point, Luke asked all members of LYAC to join him in front of the Chambers. The group then presented Councilor Rousseau with a framed photo collage poster of his activities with the LYAC members over the past few years. It was noted that Councilor Rousseau was extremely involved with all of their activities and has been extremely supportive of their efforts. Councilor Rousseau thanked the group for the gift and noted he is very proud of all of their recent accomplishments and he applauded them for all of their great work. Councilor Mendros noted their work in having the state legislation changed regarding community message boards, noting that was a large undertaking and one he did not feel they could achieve at first. Councilor Bernier suggested to Councilor Rousseau that the Council contribute funds for the message board project. Mayor Gilbert noted Councilor Rousseau is passionate about working with the young people of the city and he has engaged the youth involvement in the community, noting it takes caring adults to work with youth, the future of the city.

VOTE (332-2007)

Motion by Councilor Rousseau, seconded by Councilor Mendros:

To appropriate \$2,000 to the electronic message board fund-raising effort being coordinated by the LYAC. Passed - Vote 7-0

VOTE (333-2007)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 4, 11 and December 4, 2007, meetings and to accept and place them on file as prepared by the City Clerk. Passed - Vote 7-0

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL PASSAGE REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE REGARDING STIPENDS FOR ELECTED AND
APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Mayor Gilbert opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this matter. Mayor Gilbert then closed the hearing. Councilor Paradis stated that he supports the idea of increasing the stipend for elected officials, but understands this is somewhat of a controversial matter, so he will not be pursuing it at this time.

VOTE (334-2007)

Motion by Councilor Paradis, seconded by Councilor Samson:

To postpone this matter indefinitely. Passed - Vote 7-0

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL PASSAGE REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF THE
PERSONNEL BOARD**

Mayor Gilbert opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this matter. Mayor Gilbert then closed the hearing.

VOTE (335-2007)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Jean:

That the proposed amendment to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 "Administration", Article IV "Boards, Commissions, Committees and Bureaus", Division 4. "Personnel Board" receive final passage by a roll call vote. Passed - Vote 7-0

SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR MULLIGANS INDOOR GOLF & PUB

Mayor Gilbert opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this matter. Mayor Gilbert then closed the hearing.

VOTE (336-2007)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor O'Brien:

To grant a special amusement permit for dancing and entertainment to Mulligans Indoor Golf & Pub, 1035 Lisbon Street. Passed - Vote 7-0

SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR SOUTH END SOCIAL CLUB

Mayor Gilbert opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this matter. Mayor Gilbert then closed the hearing.

VOTE (337-2007)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To grant a special amusement permit for dancing and entertainment to South End Social Club, 315 Lisbon Street. Passed - Vote 7-0

SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

Mayor Gilbert opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this matter. Mayor Gilbert then closed the hearing.

VOTE (338-2007)

Motion by Councilor Mendros, seconded by Councilor O'Brien:

To grant a special amusement permit for dancing and entertainment to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, #618, 1327 Sabattus Street. Passed - Vote 7-0

SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR THE SPORTSMAN'S ATHLETIC CLUB

Mayor Gilbert opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this matter. Mayor Gilbert then closed the hearing.

VOTE (339-2007)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To grant a special amusement permit for dancing and entertainment to Sportsman's Athletic Club, 2 Bates Street. Passed - Vote 7-0

SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR THE LEWISTON LODGE OF ELKS

Mayor Gilbert opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this matter. Mayor Gilbert then closed the hearing.

VOTE (340-2007)

Motion by Councilor Jean, seconded by Councilor Samson:

To grant a special amusement permit for dancing and entertainment to the Lewiston Lodge of Elks, 1675 Lisbon Street. Passed - Vote 7-0

**CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM - CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE HUD FY2008 ACTION PLAN**

Councilor O'Brien stated she hopes the community takes a more active role in getting involved with funding alternatives for these organizations, noting that the HUD funds will not always be available. Councilor Mendros echoed these comments, noting these funds are important for the community. Councilor Rousseau noted that these funds also help to stimulate economic development in all areas of the city.

VOTE (341-2007)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To continue the public hearing regarding the acceptance of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) - Citizen Participation Plan for the HUD FY2008 Action Plan to the next regular City Council meeting. Passed - Vote 7-0

At this point, the Mayor read a letter from the Lake Auburn Watershed Commission, thanking Councilor Jean for his eight years of service to the Commission as the Council representative.

PRESENTATION OF THE FY2007 COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Richard Metivier introduced Deputy Finance Director Heather Hunter and Greg Chabot and Casey Leonard from the City's outside auditing firm, Runyon, Kersteen and Ouellette. Mr. Chabot congratulated the City for again receiving the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. He noted the Lewiston finance department staff prepared the entire comprehensive annual financial report, which is very unusual for most municipalities. He stated his office just needed to prepare the management letter and opinion. Mr. Chabot stated the city has received a clean audit once again this year. During the presentation, Councilor Mendros inquired about the impact of the TIF money and the outstanding collections regarding trash removal. Councilor O'Brien inquired about the funding impact of the new elementary schools.

VOTE (342-2007)

Motion by Councilor Jean, second by Councilor Samson:

To receive and place on file the Fiscal Year 2007 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
Passed - Vote 7-0

At this point, the Council took a five minute recess. When the meeting reconvened, the City Administrator gave a powerpoint presentation highlighting the various programs, projects, developments, awards, and achievements over the past six years. Some highlights of the presentation featured the All America City award designation, approval of construction of two new elementary schools, lower crime rate than Portland and Bangor, a lower tax amount for the average home owner compared to 1996, development of the southern gateway and western gateway, construction of the WalMart Distribution Center, expansion of USM - L/A College and

location of Andover College in the downtown, removal of many old dilapidated buildings - many with code violations, and creation of several parks such as Courthouse Plaza, Fountain Park and Raymond Park. During the presentation, Mr. Bennett announced that a Courtyard Marriot hotel will be constructed in the downtown area.

As a gift for their years of service, all outgoing Councilors were presented with wooden captain's chairs engraved with the city seal, the All America City logo, their name and dates in office. Each Councilor then spoke and thanked the staff for their work and noted it was a pleasure serving the community during their tenure.

VOTE (343-2007)

Motion by Councilor Samson, second by Councilor Jean:

To adjourn at 9:40 P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, MMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine